

200310687-1

10/699,395

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Official Action mailed March 15, 2006, which imposed a Restriction Requirement in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant makes the following election and requests that examination of the elected claims on their merits be promptly conducted in light of the following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Office alleges that the present application contains claims drawn to two independent and patentably distinct inventions. The claims are grouped as follows:

Claim Group 1: Claims 1-20, 21-34 and 51-59; and

Claim Group 2: Claims 35-43 and 44-50.

In response, Applicant elects Claim Group 1, claims 1-20, 21-34 and 51-59 for immediate examination. The claims of Group 2 are labeled as "withdrawn" herein.

Additionally, the recent Office Action imposed a further election of species in the event that Claim Group 1 is elected. According to the Action, the Claim Group 1 contains claims directed to four patentably distinct species identified as follows.

Species a: represented by Fig. 3

Species b: represented by Fig. 5

Species c: represented by Fig. 6

Species d: represented by Fig. 7.

Claims 1, 21 and 51 are held to be generic to all species.

In response, Applicant elects Species b, represented by Fig. 5. Applicant has reviewed the claims and finds that, of the claims elected above, claims 14 and 32 are directed to a different species, e.g., Species c, and are accordingly marked as "withdrawn" herein. The other claims are generic to the listed species or read on elected Species b.

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Applicant does not disclaim the subject matter of any withdrawn claim and reserves the right to file any number of continuation or divisional applications to the withdrawn claims or to any other subject matter described in the present application.

An examination of claims 1-13, 15-31, 33, 34 and 51-59 on their merits is now respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions which could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: April 13, 2006

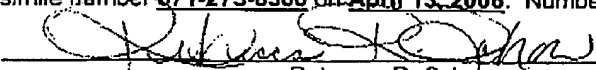

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile number 571-273-8300 on April 13, 2006. Number of Pages: 13


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